To: Chairman Skinner and the VRE Operations Board

From: Doug Allen

Date: July 15, 2016

Re: Authorization to Issue an Invitation for Bids for the Purchase of Replacement Railcar Batteries

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Recommendation:

The VRE Operations Board is asked to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the purchase of 21 cab control and 50 trailer car replacement batteries.

Background:

Invitation for Bids is the preferred and normal method of procurement suitable when seeking bids to provide goods and services at a firm-fixed price. This method is utilized when there is a complete, adequate, precise specification or purchase description. Award is made on the basis of price alone without discussions or negotiations with the Bidders.

VRE passenger railcars are equipped with low-voltage, nickel-cadmium batteries, that when connected in a series, establishes a low-voltage battery system on each passenger railcar. The low-voltage battery systems provide DC power to vital components such as radio’s, headlights, ditchlights, interior cab lights, etc. The low-voltage battery systems are nearing the end of their useful life on 21 cab control and 50 trailer cars and need to be replaced in FY 2017. Authorization to issue this Invitation for Bids, and the subsequent award of a Contract, will allow for the purchase of the replacement low-voltage batteries.
The mechanical contractor will replace the batteries as part of the on-going life cycle maintenance strategy.

Upon receipt of the bids, staff will return to the Board to request authorization to award the contract.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The CIP includes the Equipment Asset Management Program which is funded through an annual allocation of FTA 5337 (State of Good Repair) grants.
Virginia Railway Express
Operations Board

Resolution
8B-07-2016

Authorization to Issue an Invitation for Bids for the
Purchase of Replacement Railcar Batteries

WHEREAS, passenger railcars are equipped with low-voltage, nickel-cadmium batteries to provide DC power to various onboard components; and,

WHEREAS, the batteries onboard 21 cab control and 50 trailer cars are nearing the end of their useful life; and,

WHEREAS, the award of a Contract to purchase and replace batteries in FY 2017 aligns with the lifecycle maintenance plan established for passenger railcars; and,

WHEREAS, once the batteries are received by the Contractor, the mechanical contractor will replace the batteries on the passenger railcars;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the VRE Operations Board does hereby authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue an Invitation for Bids for the purchase of 21 cab control and 50 trailer car replacement batteries.

Approved this 15th day of July 2016

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Gary Skinner
Chairman

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Maureen Caddigan
Secretary